

Message Text

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APPROVED BY IO - DR. MOREY

AF/W - MR. SEGARS

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TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EWWT, IMCO, US, LI

SUBJECT:LIBERIAN CANDIDACY FOR MEMBERSHIP ON IMCO
COUNCIL AND MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE

REF: MONROVIA 5806(NOTAL)

1. DEPT WISHES ADVISE EMBASSY OF FOLLOWING:

A. IT IS GENERAL U.S. POLICY NOT TO GIVE ADVANCE COMMIT-
MENTS OF SUPPORT IN ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN GOVERN-
ING BODIES OF UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES UNTIL WE HAVE HAD
OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW TOTALITY OF CANDIDACIES AND DETER-
MINE AREA CHOICES, IF ANY. THUS, AS PRACTICAL MATTER,
FINAL DETERMINATIONS NORMALLY MADE BY USDELS AT CONFERENCE.
ACCORDINGLY, IT NORMAL DEPT PRACTICE TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS
FOR SUPPORT FROM CANDIDATES IN SUCH ELECTIONS BY NOTING
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THAT USG WILL BEAR CANDIDACIES IN MIND IN MAKING FINAL DETERMINATION. THIS WAS OBJECT OF DEPT'S 176018, WHICH INSTRUCTED EMBASSY TO REPLY TO GOL ALONG THESE LINES. ACCORDINGLY, IT DIFFICULT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND STATEMENT IN PARA 1 REFTEL THAT GOL RECEIVED NO REPLY TO ITS REQUEST FOR SUPPORT.

B. AT IMCO ASSEMBLY, NOV. 1973, USDEL DECIDED TO SUPPORT GOL CANDIDACY FOR COUNCIL AND MSC AND DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COOPER WAS PERSONALLY INFORMED OF THIS SUPPORT BY MEMBERS OF USDEL AT CONFERENCE SITE. IN FACT, USDEL PLAYED POSITIVE AND ACTIVE ROLE IN SUPPORTING GOL CANDIDACY. WHILE GOL WAS ELECTED TO MSC, IT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN RACE FOR COUNCIL SEAT LARGELY BECAUSE OF LIBERIAN STATUS AS FLAG OF CONVENIENCE.

C. IMCO EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY, MEETING OCT. 16-18, WILL CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO CONVENTION PROPOSED BY AD HOC WORKING GROUP TO A) EXPAND SIZE OF COUNCIL FROM 18 TO 24 MEMBERS, AND OPEN MSC MEMBERSHIP TO PARTICIPATION BY ALL IMCO MEMBERS. U.S. HAS FULLY SUPPORTED WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND WE UNDERSTAND THIS COINCIDES WITH GOL POSITION. ASSEMBLY WILL ALSO CONSIDER FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE AMENDMENTS TO CONVENTION; USG BELIEVES FRENCH PROPOSALS BASICALLY UNNECESSARY, TOO BROAD IN SCOPE TO PERMIT DETAILED STUDY AT THREE-DAY ASSEMBLY, AND THUS WE PREFER THEY BE SHELVED OR BE HELD FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION AT LATER DATE.

D. SINCE ARTICLE 52 OF IMCO CONVENTION PROVIDES THAT AMENDMENTS TO CONVENTION DO NOT COME INTO FORCE UNTIL TWELVE MONTHS AFTER ACCEPTANCE BY TWO-THIRDS OF MEMBER STATES FOLLOWING ASSEMBLY PASSAGE, AND IN PAST, IT HAS TAKEN SEVERAL YEARS FOR CONVENTION AMENDMENTS TO OBTAIN REQUISITE APPROVAL, NO ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT FORTHCOMING EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY. NEXT ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT REGULAR ASSEMBLY IN NOVEMBER 1975. MOREOVER, IT IS UNLIKELY ELECTIONS TO EXPANDED COUNCIL WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE FALL OF 1977. THUS, DEPT PUZZLED ABOUT REFERENCE TO LIBERIAN CANDIDACY IN LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 1 REFTEL.

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2. EMBASSY MAY DRAW UPON FOREGOING IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH GOL ON THIS SUBJECT. INGERSOLL

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